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Security Information

21 October 1952

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Intelligence Support for Psychological Warfare Planning

PARTICIPANTS: [redacted] , PSB 25X1A9A

Mr. Fisher Howe, State
Mr. Allan Evans, State

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[redacted] , PSB
[redacted] , PSB

Mr. James C. Reber

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1. This group was convened at my suggestion by [redacted] in order that we might make sure that all of us were thinking alike regarding PSB's psychological intelligence support and to examine several problems which have recently arisen in PSB psychological intelligence memoranda.

2. A summary of the points discussed is as follows:

a. Question: Has the Planning Unit of PSB itself run into difficulties in obtaining intelligence for its planning?

Comment: No, it has not. At the present time the Planning Unit is concerning itself almost exclusively with Western Europe. It has been able to work closely with the OEM element in State.

b. Question: Are the PSB panels receiving adequate intelligence support?

Comment: Generally, no. Although there are cases on either extreme, in some instances the chairman of the panel (and it should be understood that these are not run by the PSB staff) considers that he himself possesses all the necessary intelligence. In those cases where the panel chairmen are less knowledgeable or recognize the value of intelligence they have sought out the resources in the Department for intelligence support. In the event the PSB staff is unhappy with the proposed plans of a panel, I suggested the possibility that on its own the PSB planners might request intelligence which would enable them to better appraise the adequacy of panels' plans. It was recognized that there may have been difficulties arising from the liaison channel between PSB and the Department and Mr. Howe indicated that he will look into this question.

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c. Question: When the PSB makes a request for intelligence how can it be sure that all the intelligence in town is made available?

Comment: It was proposed that since the primary responsibility and the bulk of the relevant intelligence for Psychological Warfare is the responsibility of the State Department that the first discussion should be held there. Questions which are peculiarly relevant to the military (such as the morale of troops in a country) or peculiarly the province of CIA (such as internal organization in detail of the Communist Party in a country) could and should be segregated and then dealt with directly. I indicated that in a panel at which a CIA/DD/P member was present and participating that member had a direct responsibility for procuring from FI such Communist Party information as was available and disseminable. I also indicated that it seemed to me it was the responsibility of the State Department to insure that a check was made with the Office of Collection and Dissemination in CIA as to what might be available in our files; that the Department should screen out from the machine run or finished intelligence what was useful and thereby do a nearly complete job for the PSB panel.

d. Question: Who has responsibility for public opinion studies in the various countries?

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Comment: [redacted] felt that this sort of thing was very important and needs to be done. I indicated that this was the responsibility of the State Department that to my knowledge some of these studies had been done and some were in progress through external research contracts. It did not follow, I said, that all of the countries of the world were equally important or had to be done simultaneously and that it was quite clear that the United States Government would not, and should not, pay the bill for going into this matter through extensive external research contracts across the board until such time as there was agreement of all the responsible people that this was necessary and wise.

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e. Question: Is [redacted] to be in a position to brief the Director of the PSB on current intelligence?

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Comment: I recognized from [redacted] remarks that he feels both beholden to the Director of the PSB and yet still a member of CIA. The DCI has apparently made comments to him which support this feeling. With respect to a current question as to whether or not the Stalin line is changing Pete needs to get a report to the Director of the PSB within ten days. It seemed to me, I said, that this is directly a State Department OIR question and that it seemed to me OIR should immediately consult with the other current intelligence people in town who have some information or some views on the question -- thus with OCI, COMINT, and the military. I also inquired whether this isn't an appropriate subject

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for the Watch Committee. Some one suggested that the Watch Committee was all military, which impression I corrected. I indicated that nothing prohibits the State Department from proposing for inclusion in a Watch Committee report a conclusion respecting such a question as is the Stalin line changing, showing whatever indicators are relevant to the question.

3. In general, it was the feeling of the group that this discussion was useful and that the key people involved in making psychological support for PSS work being present. As problems arose each should feel free to discuss the matter with the appropriate person. I indicated that I remained as I had then, ready and willing to assist in solving any problem which arose in connection with psychological support for PSS or otherwise.

JAMES Q. REED
Assistant Director
Intelligence Coordination